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**CLAIMS:**

1. A purified protein having an amino acid sequence having at least 80% identity to DETH.
- 5 2. The purified protein of claim 1 wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence having at least 90% identity to DETH.
3. The purified protein of claim 1 wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence having at least 95 % identity to DETH.
4. The purified protein of claim 1 wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence having at least 99 % identity to DETH.
- 10 5. The purified protein of claim 1 wherein said protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
6. A fragment of DETH that induces apoptosis.
7. A purified nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein of any one of claims 1-6.
8. An antibody specific for DETH.
- 15 9. A method of inducing apoptosis comprising the step of expressing DETH in a cell in an amount effective to induce apoptosis.